

**Youth Concussion Advisory Group Meeting  
Meeting 4 November 6, 2014  
10:00am-12:00pm**

---

**Facilitator:** Dr. Jean Mee  
**Location:** CSDE Middletown

**Call to order:** 11:08am  
**Conference Room:** MCR-2

---

**Members Present:** Dr. Chinedu Okeke (DPH); Dr. Karissa Niehoff (CIAC); Dr. Theresa Miyashita (CATA); Dr. Carl Nissen (CSMS); Nancy Pugliese (CSDE); John Frassinelli (CSDE); Stephanie Knutson (CSDE); Dr. Jean Mee (CSDE)

---

**Attendees:** Diana Coyne (PCC); Ed Kravitz (ICEUs); Fred Balsamo (CAAD); Carrie Kramer (BIAC)

---

***Call to Order***

Dr. Jean Mee called the meeting to order at 10:08am

***Review Agenda/Introduction***

Dr. Mee advised if any member of the public wishes to speak that they would be allowed three minutes to speak at the beginning of the meeting after which the meeting will be turned over to the advisory group. At the request of attendees at the previous meeting, public comment will also be heard at the conclusion of the meeting.

Mr. Frassinelli indicated that notes and comments received between the last meeting and this one would be discussed before the end of the meeting. Materials were available to all in attendance.

Items to be discussed by the advisory group are:

- Concussion Web page
- Concussion Education Initial Course feedback
- Annual review and refresher course
- Next steps

**Public Comment Period**

**Parents Concussion Coalition**

Diana Coyne, representing the Parents Concussion Coalition, made the following recommendations going forward:

Transparency – because it creates accountability;

Open and free access to concussion education – recommended that concussion education be made accessible at no cost;

Provider qualifications – recommended that in-person training be provided only by medical professionals trained in management of concussions;

### Innovative CEU's, LLC

Ed Kravitz, representing innovative CEUs, LLC:

Free access to concussion education – recommended that no individual or organization has ownership of the concussion education courses and that they should be free for everyone;  
Donation of course fees – proposed that all money collected from the concussion education course to date be donated to a charity that helps concussed athlete in Connecticut;  
Course approval criteria – requested a rubric used to approve the initial, review and refresher courses;  
Assessment of learning – discussed the need for courses to include assessment of learning.

### Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut (BIAC)

Carrie Kramer, representing the Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut (BIAC), made the following comments and inquiries:

Data collection form that was created by CIAC: Asked if it was able to be updated;  
CDC changed their concussion definition – Recommended that the most current definition should be used;  
CIAC should consider listing BIAC as a resource: Requested that there be a link to the BIAC Web site on the CIAC Web site;  
CIAC web site – asked if two components listing courses/resources could be listed as under training modules.

### ***Creation of Concussion Web Page***

Web page purpose is to post procedural information during the advisory group's work. Once completed, the Web page may be utilized as a source for information and resources.

### **Advisory Group Discussion**

#### ***Training Courses and Materials***

The committee discussed adding a link on the concussion Web page to the course that is in development, discussed the advantages and disadvantages of doing so, and concluded that it is premature to post it. The question of focused courses for specific groups (i.e. youth sport-related concussion) was briefly discussed. The focus of this advisory group was reiterated, which is to address the legislatively mandated requirements first; expanded focus and wider audiences are expected to be addressed in later, ongoing efforts including through the Youth Concussion Task Force.

Dr. Karissa Niehoff, (CIAC) - clarified that the in-person concussion course is free and encouraged anyone interested to take it in person. Monies are not generated by in-person courses because they are free; any fees only cover the costs of providing the courses, not to CIAC. Dr. Niehoff also indicated that a link from the CIAC Website to the BIAC Website can be added.

Dr. Mee – during the meeting sent the Concussion Course PowerPoint containing the BIAC's recommended additions and changes to all to review and make comments and/or suggestions.

Dr. Carl Nissen, CSMS - discussed comments received regarding the PowerPoint. He has reached out to ESPN to help create the video and work on ways to distribute to coaches.

There was discussion of the PowerPoint – due to the timeframe, only items that required in-person discussion among advisory group members were discussed. Feedback and suggestions received will be considered and incorporated as appropriate prior to the next meeting.

### ***Reporting Incidences of Concussion***

Data collection and reporting: different options are being discussed (i.e. cost, sustainability, confidentiality, etc.) including the Health Services Program survey that is collected by school nurses. The concussion portion could be added as a stand-alone series of questions. Only school nurses can enter information, not athletic trainers, etc. The purpose of collecting data, what should be collected and how it should be coded need to be identified.

As a point of information, the data collection form was placed on the web site for temporary use until determination of the official procedure for data collection.

It was proposed that the video portion of the review materials outline procedures for coaches and how to respond to a concussion. The final logistics are yet to be determined.

It was mentioned that Web based information would be more viable than paper, and would be more accessible to others besides school nurses.

It was mentioned that only one person be responsible to report information for the survey to prevent duplicate data on the same student.

The advisory group discussed what will work best for schools; what is an ideal versus realistic approach?

It was proposed that the group look at other survey tools.

### ***Discussion Items***

Concussion defined.

Instead of adopting one definition of concussion, the group agreed that several definitions from relevant agencies and groups be included in the materials.

Various definitions would stand out. CDC definition relates to all people. Concern expressed that if concussion is defined as a “mild” traumatic brain injury, which is a medically accurate distinction, some may not consider concussion a serious diagnosis.

The group discussed who might be responsible to document an athlete displaying signs of a concussion.

There was discussion regarding the pros and cons of mandating a specific time frame between stages of recovery from a concussion versus considering each case individually and relying on the student’s physician. The group agreed to look at additional resources.

The group agreed to discuss Return to Play at the next meeting.

### **Next Steps**

Education Plan – the development of an education plan, due 1/1/15, is a CSDE responsibility, and advisory group as well as public comment on drafts will be solicited. Stephanie Knutson and Dr. Mee will draft an Education Plan.

Mr. Frassinelli, CSDE - If there isn't an approved refresher course in place prior to coaches needing to recertify, we will need to have additional discussion.

Dr. Mee will e-mail a scheduling poll to identify availability of members for possible next meeting dates.

### **End of Meeting Public Comment**

Ed Kravitz, representing innovative CEUs, LLC -- asked what will happen to the data collected. He also reiterated the need for an assessment to exist for the concussion course.

Carrie Kramer, representing the Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut (BIAC) -- inquired about attending the CIAC courses. (Anyone interested in these courses should go to the CIAC Website)

Diana Coyne, representing the Parents Concussion Coalition – suggested 7 days for return to play; children take longer to recover than adults.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08pm